

EXHIBIT

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

Chain Pharmacist Practice Memo

Volume 6, Number 9 This Month's Briefing on Key Practice and Operational Concerns

SEPTEMBER 2002

Special Issue: Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse

Recent studies show that the rates of accidental prescription drug abuse and drug misuse are rising in the U.S. As prescription volume continues to escalate, the risk for abuse of prescription drugs is likely to continue to increase. Community pharmacists can encourage the proper use of medications and are uniquely qualified to help prevent and detect prescription drug abuse.

Hydrocodone may be the most abused drug

The most commonly abused prescription drug classes are:

- ❖ Opioids (i.e. morphine, hydrocodone, oxycodone, fentanyl)
- ❖ CNS depressants (i.e. barbiturates such as phenobarbital; benzodiazepines such as diazepam, alprazolam)
- ❖ CNS stimulants (i.e. amphetamines, methylphenidate)

Although sustained-release oxycodone (Oxycontin®) has received much publicity regarding abuse, many other drug products from these three classes are frequently abused; hydrocodone may be the most widely misused opiate.

"Prescription drugs can relieve a variety of medical problems and improve the lives of millions of people, but they can be dangerous, addicting -- and even deadly -- when used non-medically."

Glen R. Hanson,
D.D.S., PhD., Acting
Director, National
Institute on Drug Abuse
(NIDA)

Age and gender differences in prescription drug abuse trends

The Elderly

Studies have documented the misuse of prescription drugs by the elderly; but some misuse among this population is likely to be accidental. Many of the problems with drug use in the elderly may be caused by both inappropriate prescribing, and lack of adequate patient education.

Adolescents and young adults

The majority of "first time" prescription drug abusers tend to be 12 years to 25 years of age and appear to preferentially abuse pain medications and stimulants, instead of CNS depressants. Xanax® (alprazolam) appears to be the new drug of choice among college students who abuse prescription medications.

Gender differences... women may be at higher risk

While not definitive, some studies suggest that young women are more likely to abuse prescribed medication than young men, especially pain and anti-anxiety medications. Women are nearly two times more likely to become addicted to sedatives and anti-anxiety agents than men... however, they are far more likely to be prescribed these medications.

While appropriate prescription medication use rarely leads to addiction, long term prescribed use of some medications can result in tolerance and physical dependence and withdrawal symptoms may occur if the medication is stopped. Also, the misuse or abuse of some prescription medications may lead to addiction, compulsive drug seeking and using behavior.

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Pharmacists can help prevent prescription drug abuse

Unfortunately, many health care providers, including pharmacists, receive little training on addiction and recovery. DEA regulations may also make some pharmacists overly cautious when dispensing medications that may be vital to a patient's quality of life.

Strategies for preventing drug abuse

- ❖ **Ensure your patients understand the intended use of their medications** and how to use them correctly. For example, many patients need specific guidance on when to take medications if the doctor writes "as needed" in the directions.
- ❖ **Talk to your patients about their medications.** Encouraging patients to discuss their medications with pharmacists may prevent problems from occurring. For example, if a patient receives a prescription for pain medication but still has episodes of severe uncontrolled pain, recommend the doctor write for a 3 day to 5 day supply of more potent medication to treat "breakthrough" pain.
- ❖ **Contact the prescriber if you suspect medication misuse.** Frequent early refill requests and prescriptions for the same drug from multiple prescribers may indicate the patient is abusing their medications.
- ❖ **Enter the patient's diagnosis in the pharmacy's computer.** For example, patients who have terminal illness or chronic pain due to a severe auto accident may have legitimate needs for high and frequent doses of pain medication... so place a note in their record.
- ❖ **Know the signs of a forged prescription.** For instance, the handwriting is "too good," no residual pad adhesive, crooked script corners from imperfect scissors cuts of photocopies, or non-standard abbreviations or dosages. Prescriptions, such as sustained-release oxycodone for "prn" pain, should be verified before dispensing.

Inappropriate pain management and "opiophobia"

Not only do pharmacists have responsibility to ensure correct use of medications, they must also ensure that their patients are receiving adequate therapy. Many patients in chronic pain suffer needlessly because doctors and pharmacists are overly concerned about addiction and "forget" to focus on treating the patient and improving the patient's quality of life, a syndrome commonly referred to as "opiophobia." Patients who refuse to take pain medication because they fear becoming addicted are also "opiophobic." Sadly, many of these patients have terminal illnesses and end up suffering due to poor pain management.

The most common types of chronic pain include migraine headaches, low back pain, cancer pain, and arthritis pain. Controlling chronic, severe pain may often require using much higher doses of pain medication than what is used in controlling acute pain. The recommended dose for oral morphine tablets is 5-30 mg every four hours; however, it is not uncommon for patients in severe pain to use more than 90 mg every four hours. Most patients being adequately treated for severe pain do not abuse or become addicted to their medications. One study found that only four out of 12,000 patients given opioids for acute pain became addicted. ❖

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New dangers with consuming alcohol with medications

Recent studies reveal that consumers face new dangers when consuming alcohol with prescription drugs. Many patients don't realize that combination products like Vicodin® and numerous nonprescription cough and cold medicines contain acetaminophen. Many opioid medications commonly abused also contain acetaminophen. While studies are still ongoing, patients who consume more than 4000 mg of acetaminophen (i.e. 12 regular strength Tylenol® tablets or eight Extra Strength Tylenol® tablets) and two or more alcoholic beverages a day may be at risk for serious liver damage and liver failure. Some case reports indicate that damage may occur in less than one week.

When monitoring the use of opioids... don't overlook the potential of acetaminophen overdoses and drug interactions if the medication contains both drugs. Patients who consume more than two or more alcoholic drinks a day may not tell their doctor, but they may ask their pharmacist if it is safe to drink with their medications. You may want to review their medication therapy for drug-alcohol interactions and make recommendations for alternatives if needed.

Sublingual buprenorphine under review for treating opiate addiction

Currently, methadone is the most commonly used treatment for opiate addiction and related withdrawal symptoms. As mixed opiate agonists, methadone blocks the effect of other opiates and relieves drug cravings. Patients abusing CNS stimulants and depressants should also undergo slow detoxification to prevent withdrawal symptoms. In some patients, antidepressants may be used to counteract depression that sometimes occurs during detoxification and addiction recovery.

A new sublingual buprenorphine tablet is under review by the FDA. For the first time in decades, this medication would allow office-based pharmacotherapeutic treatment of opiate addiction.

The FDA is reviewing buprenorphine as a treatment for opiate addiction because clinical trials have shown that buprenorphine (alone or in combination with naloxone) is effective. Currently, most individuals addicted to opiates must rely on a limited number of federally regulated methadone clinics to receive treatment. Prescribed dispensing of sublingual buprenorphine by physicians in their offices will help to augment the current system of opiate addiction treatment.

Recovery programs available for impaired professionals

Nearly 20% of all health care professionals will experience some form of addiction in their lifetime. Many health care professionals frequently encounter stressful, even traumatic situations as part of their daily practice. This added stress and the fact that most have easy access to commonly abused prescription drugs **increases** the risk for substance abuse.

For this reason, it's important to address how to assist impaired colleagues in obtaining help. Fortunately, many states have "recovery programs" that treat the unique needs of impaired health care professionals. Many of these programs allow individuals to anonymously report that a colleague may have a problem. In addition, many states will lessen, or waive punitive action against an impaired health care professional if the health care professional voluntarily enters a treatment program.

By not taking action to assist a health care professional who may be impaired, a patient may be harmed. The American Pharmaceutical Association can provide individuals with contact information and referrals to state recovery programs. Call 1-800-237-APhA (2742) ext. 7559 for information. ❖

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One-year anniversary of September 11 attacks *Post-traumatic stress disorder often facilitates substance abuse*

With the anniversary of the September 11 attacks, be on the lookout for patients who may exhibit the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), or who may begin unusual use of a potentially addictive prescription medication. Anniversaries of disasters or other traumatic events frequently generate emotional stress, which may be severe in some individuals. Memories of these events may trigger similar responses seen at the time of the original event, such as shock, numbness, irritability and mood changes. These symptoms constitute what is known as PTSD. Individuals with PTSD are at high risk for substance abuse, so it is important that they receive medical care.

Symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (from the National Center for PTSD)

- ❖ Feels very upset or fearful most of the time
- ❖ Acts very differently compared to before the trauma
- ❖ Can't work at all or take care of kids or home
- ❖ Has important relationships that are continuing to get worse
- ❖ Uses drugs or drinks too much
- ❖ Feels jumpy or has nightmares a lot
- ❖ Still can't stop thinking about the traumatic event
- ❖ Still can't enjoy life since the event

NIDA offers valuable resources for pharmacists

NIDA has several resources that may be of use to pharmacists including the *Facts about Prescription Drug Abuse* reference on prescription drug abuse included in this issue. Additional copies of *Facts about Prescription Drug Abuse* may be downloaded from the NACDS web site, www.nacds.org. In addition, copies of a patient education brochure entitled *Things You Should Know About Prescription Drugs and Their Potential For Misuse or Abuse* are also available to download on the NACDS web site for distribution to patients.

Other NIDA resources available on their web site, www.drugabuse.gov, include:

- ❖ **NIDA Research Reports.** This series of reports simplifies the science of research findings for the lay public, legislators, educational groups, and practitioners.
- ❖ **Science Based Facts on Drug Abuse and Addiction.** NIDA offers numerous documents on the health effects of specific drugs, drug abuse prevention and treatment, and other resources. These documents may be accessed from the NIDA web site, www.drugabuse.gov. Many of the documents are available in Spanish and NIDA offers a telephone line for the hearing impaired.
- ❖ **Marijuana - Facts Parents Need To Know.** This publication provides parents with information about marijuana use and strategies to prevent children from using this and other illegal drugs.
- ❖ **SteroidAbuse.org.** This web site provides information about steroids, how they are abused, and health problems that result from their use.

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Founded in 1933, the National Association
of Chain Drug Stores membership consists
of over 190 retail chain community
pharmacy companies in an industry that
operates more than 34,000 retail
community pharmacies which provide prac-
tice settings for more than 100,000 phar-
macists nationwide. The NACDS membership
also includes more than 1,300 suppliers of
goods and services to chain drug stores.

Selected Prescription Drugs with Potential for Abuse

Visit NIDA at www.drugabuse.gov

NIDA
NATIONAL INSTITUTE
ON DRUG ABUSE

Substances: Category and Name	Examples of Commercial and Street Names	DEA Schedule/ How Administered**	Intoxication Effects/Potential Health Consequences
Sedatives			
barbiturates	Amyltal, Nembutal, Seconal, Phenobarbital; barbs, reds, red birds, phenies, tooles, yellows, yellow jackets	II, III, IV/injected, swallowed	reduced pain and anxiety, feeling of well-being, lowered inhibitions, slowed pulse and breathing, lowered blood pressure, poor concentration, confusion, fatigue, impaired coordination, memory, judgment, respiratory depression and arrest, addiction
benzodiazepines (other than flunitrazepam)	Alivan, Halcion, Librium, Valium, Xanax; candy, downers, sleeping pills, tanks	IV/swallowed	Also, for barbiturates—sedation, drowsiness/depression, unusual excitement, fever, irritability, poor judgment, slurred speech, dizziness
flunitrazepam****	Polypropyl; forget-me pill, Mexican Valium, R2, Roche, rofiles, rofinol, rope, rophies	IV/swallowed, snorted	for benzodiazepines—sedation, drowsiness/dizziness
Dissociative Anesthetics			
ketamine	Ketalar SV; cat Valiums, K, Special K, vitamin K	IV/injected, snorted, smoked	for flunitrazepam—visual and gastrointestinal disturbances, urinary retention, memory loss for the time under the drug's effects Increased heart rate and blood pressure, impaired motor function, memory loss; numbness, nausea/vomiting Also, for ketamine—at high doses, delirium, depression, respiratory depression and arrest
Opioids and Opioid Analgesics			
codeine	Empirin with Codeine, Fiorinal with Codeine, Robitussin A-C, Tylenol with Codeine; Caplain Cody, Cody, schoolboy (with glutethimide) doors & tours, loads, pancakes and syrup	II, III, IV/injected, swallowed	pain relief, euphoria, drowsiness, respiratory depression and arrest, nausea, confusion, constipation, sedation, unconsciousness, coma, tolerance, addiction
fentanyl	Acrid, Duragesic, Sublimaze; Apache, China girl, China white, dance fever, friend, goodie, Jackie, murder B, TNT, Tango and Cash	IV/injected, snorted, smoked	Also, for codeine—less analgesia, sedation, and respiratory depression than morphine
morphine	Roxanol, Duramorph; M, Miss Emma, monkey, white stuff	II, IV/injected, swallowed, smoked	
oxycodone	Endium, paregoric; big O, black stuff, block, gum, hop	II, III, IV/swallowed, smoked	
other opioid pain relievers (oxycodone, meperidine, hydromorphone, hydrocodone, propoxyphene)	Tylox, OxyContin, Percodan, Percocet; oxy 80s, oxycodone, oxycet, hillybilly heroin, pacs Bemerol, meperidine hydrochloride; demmies, pain killer Dilaudid; juice, dillies Vicodin, Lortab, Lorcet; Darvon, Darvocet	II, III, IV/swallowed, injected, suppositories, chewed, crushed, snorted	
Stimulants			
amphetamines	Biphentamine, Dexedrine; bennies, black beauties, crosses, hearts, LA turnaround, speed, truck drivers, uppers	IV/injected, swallowed, smoked, snorted	increased heart rate, blood pressure, metabolism; feelings of alertness, energy; increased mental alertness/rapid or irregular heart beat, reduced appetite, weight loss, heart failure
cocaine	Cocaine hydrochloride; blow, bump, C, candy, Charlie, coke, crack, flake, rock, snow, too	IV/injected, smoked, snorted	Also, for amphetamines—rapid breathing; hallucinations/vision; loss of coordination, irritability, anxiety, restlessness, delirium, panic, paranoia, impulsive behavior, aggressiveness, tolerance, addiction
methamphetamine	Desoxyn; chalk, crank, crystal, fire, glass, go fast, ice, meth, speed	IV/injected, swallowed, smoked, snorted	for cocaine—increased temperature/chest pain, respiratory failure, nausea, abdominal pain, strokes, seizures, hallucinations, malnutrition
methylphenidate	Ritalin, Jif, MPH, R-ball, Skippy, the smart drug, vitamin R	IV/injected, swallowed, snorted	for methamphetamine—aggression, violence, psychotic behavior/memory loss, cardiac and neurological damage; impaired memory and learning, tolerance, addiction
Anabolic Steroids			
anabolic steroids	Anadrol, Oxandrolone, Durabolin, Depo-Testosterone, Equipose; roids, juice	III/injected, swallowed, applied to skin	for methylphenidate—increased blood pressure, psychotic episodes/digestive problems, loss of appetite, weight loss no intoxication effects/hypertension, blood clotting and cholesterol changes, liver cysts and cancer, kidney cancer, hostility and aggression, acne, adolescents, premature stoppage of growth, in males, prostate cancer, reduced sperm production, shrunk testicles, breast enlargement; in females, menstrual irregularities, development of beard and other masculine characteristics

*Schedule I and II drugs have a high potential for abuse. They require greater storage security and have a quota on manufacturing. Schedule I drugs are available only by prescription (unrefillable) and require a form for ordering. Schedule II and IV drugs are available by prescription, may have five refills in 6 months, and may be ordered orally. Most Schedule V drugs are available over the counter.

**Taking drugs by injection can increase the risk of infection through needle contamination with *Staphylococcus*, HIV, hepatitis, and other organisms.

***Associated with sexual assaults

****Not available by prescription in U.S.

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Facts about Prescription Drug Abuse

Medications can be effective when they are used properly, but some can be addictive and dangerous when misused. This chart provides a brief look at some prescribed medications that—when used in ways other than they are prescribed—have the potential for abuse and even addiction.

Fortunately, most Americans take their medications responsibly. Addiction to prescription drugs is rare. However, in 2000, close to 9 million Americans reported using a prescription drug for nonmedical reasons at least once during the year.

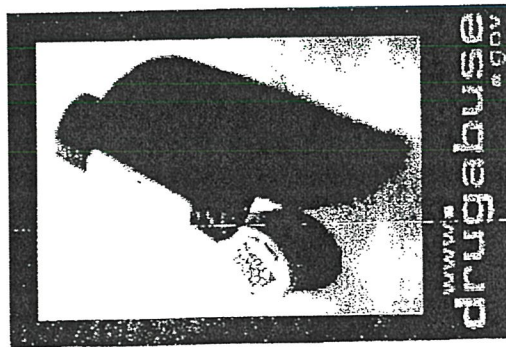
What types of prescription drugs are misused or abused?

Three types of drugs are misused or abused most often:

- Opioids—prescribed for pain relief
- CNS depressants—barbiturates and benzodiazepines prescribed for anxiety or sleep problems (often referred to as sedatives or tranquilizers)
- Stimulants—prescribed for attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), the sleep disorder narcolepsy, or obesity.

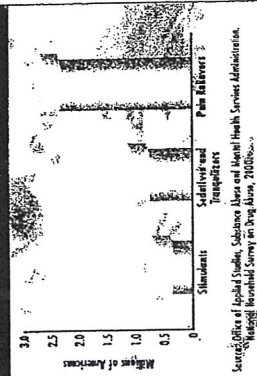
How can you help prevent prescription drug misuse or abuse?

- Keep your doctor informed about all medications you are taking, including over-the-counter medications.
- Take your medication(s) as prescribed.
- Read the information your pharmacist provides before starting to take medications.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist about your medication, especially if you are unsure about its effects.



Order NIDA publications from
NCADI: 1-800-729-6686
or TDD: 1-800-487-4889

Almost 4 Million Americans Reported Current Use of Prescription Drugs for Nonmedical Purposes in 2000



Illicit Drug Use Among Youths Age 12 to 14



Assessing Prescription Drug Abuse: CAGE, Four Simple Questions for You and Your Physician

- Have you ever felt the need to cut down on your use of prescription drugs?
- Have you ever felt Annoyed by remarks your friends or loved ones made about your use of prescription drugs?
- Have you ever felt Guilty or remorseful about your use of prescription drugs?
- Have you Ever used prescription drugs as a way to "get going" or to "calm down"?

Adapted from Ewing, J.A. "Detecting Alcoholism: The CAGE Questionnaire." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 251(14):1905-1907, 1984.

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